

REMARKS

Claims 2-14 remain in this application. Claim 1 is cancelled and claim 2 is rewritten in the independent form with its language changed to more accurately recite the intended meaning. Claims 2-14 have been amended correct dependency and better express Applicant's intent.

In the Office Action, the Examiner seems to read the claims to require that the optical element have a thickness of 10mm. This is clearly not what the claim says nor is it Applicant's intended meaning. What the claims says and means is that the medium should show an internal transmittance of at least 50% for a wavelength of 300nm when the medium has a thickness of 10mm. That is, this is not a recitation regarding the size of the optical element, but a recitation concerning a characteristic of the medium.

With this understanding, it is clear that a transmittance of at least 50% through a thickness of 10mm for a wavelength of 300nm is more limited than and non-obvious from a transmittance of at least 50% through a thickness of 5mm for a wavelength of 300nm as disclosed by Nagano (The medium disclosed by Nagano cannot provide 50% internal transmittance through 10mm thickness). Therefore, amended claim 2 is not anticipated by or obvious over Nagano for at least this reason.

Furthermore, claim 2 recites a diffractive optical element. In contrast, Nagano fails to disclose a diffractive optical element. For this further reason, amended claim 2 is not anticipated by or obvious over Nagano and is allowable. Other pending claims depend from claim 2 directly or indirectly, and thus these claims also should be allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

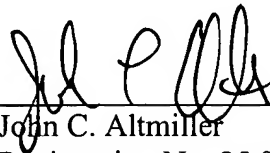
The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

Appl. No. 10/823,639
Amdt. dated September 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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